

THE  
**IMPROVED**  
**GARDENER;**

OR, THE  
PRACTICE OF GARDENING,  
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES,  
FOR THE  
**Twelve Months in the Year.**  
TO WHICH IS ADDED,  
A GREAT VARIETY OF USEFUL RECEIPTS.



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London :  
PRINTED FOR THE BOOKSELLERS,  
AND FOR JAMES KENDREW, COLLIERGATE, YORK.



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THE

**IMPROVED**  
**GARDENER;**

OR, THE

*PRACTICE OF GARDENING,*

IN ALL ITS BRANCHES,

FOR THE

**TWELVE MONTHS IN THE YEAR.**

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

A GREAT VARIETY OF USEFUL RECEIPTS,

*Method of Planting an Orchard,*

AND A

**DESCRIPTION AND CURE OF THE CURL IN POTATOES.**

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THE

# Improved Gardener, &c.

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## JANUARY.

### *Pleasure Garden.*

FROST is to be expected now, and nothing is so dangerous to tender flower-roots, and their shoots for spring.

Ranunculuses, anemones, and tulips, will be in danger; cover the beds to guard them, lay on peas straw, where they are not come up; but where the shoots appear, place hoops with mats and cloths upon them. This is the common practice; but in that excellent work, *The Complete Body of Gardening*, there is a new method proposed, and much easier and better. This is to place behind them a reed hedge, sloping three feet forward. A mat is to be let down from the top in severe weather, and taken up in mild. This certainly preserves them, and yet does not draw them weak, or make them tender.

Cover the beds and boxes of seedling flowers; and take off the defence when the weather is milder.

Clean the auricula plants, pick off dead leaves, and scrape away the surface of the mould; put fresh mould in the place of it, and set the pots up to the brim in the mould of a dry bed, and place behind them a reed hedge.

Cover carnation plants from wet, and defend them from mice and sparrows.

*Kitchen Garden.*

Throw up some new dung in a heap to heat, that it may be ready to make hot beds both for the early cucumbers and melons in this part of the ground, and for raising seeds of annuals in the flower garden.

Dig up the ground that is to be sown with the spring crops, that it may lay and mellow.

Nurse the cauliflower plants kept under glasses carefully shut out the frost, but in the middle of milder days let in a little air; pick up the dead leaves, and gather up the mould about the stalks.

Make a slight hot-bed in the open ground for young sallading, and place hoops over it, that it may be covered in very hard weather.

Plant out endive for seed into warm borders, earth and blanch celery.

Sow a few beans and peas, and seek and destroy snails and other vermin.

*Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

Fruit trees, whether in orchards, or espaliers, or against walls, demand the same general management.

Cut out dead wood and irregular branches, clean the stumps and boughs from the moss with an hollow iron; and repair espaliers, fastening the stakes and poles with nails and wire, and tying the shoots down with twigs of osier.

Place stakes by all new-planted trees; and cut grafts to be ready, lay them in the earth under a warm wall.

## FEBRUARY.

*Pleasure Garden.*

Make hot-beds for annual flowers with the dung laid up for that purpose, and sow them upon a good thickness of mould, laid regularly over the dung.

Transplant perennial flowers and hardy shrubs, Canterbury bells, lilacs, and the like. Break up and new lay the



gravel walks. Weed, rake, and clean the borders, and where the box of the hedging is decayed make it up with a fresh plantation.

Sow auricula and polyanthus seeds in boxes; these should be made of rough boards six inches deep, with holes at the bottom for the running off of water, they must be filled with light mould, and the seeds scattered thinly over the surface, then some more mould must be sifted over them a quarter of an inch thick, and they must be set where they may enjoy the morning sun.

Plant out carnations into pots for flowering.

### *Kitchen Garden.*

Dig and level beds for sowing radishes and onions, carrots and parsnips, and Dutch lettuce; leeks and spinage should also be sown now; also beets, celery, sorrel, and marigolds, with any other of the hardy kinds.

Make up the hot-beds for early cucumbers, and sow cauliflower seeds and some others.

Plant beans and sow peas; the best way in those useful things, is to sow a new crop every fortnight, that if one succeeds and another fails, as will often be the case, there may still be a constant supply, at the due season, for the table. Plant kidney beans upon a hot-bed for an early crop. The dwarf, white, and Battersea bean, are the best sorts. They must have air in the middle of mild days when they are up, and once in two days, they must be gently watered.

Transplant cabbages, plant out Silesia and cos lettuce from the beds where they grow in winter; and plant potatoes and Jerusalem artichokes.

### *Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

Most kinds of trees may now be pruned, though it be better to do it to the generality in autumn; whatever has been omitted at that season, in this article, must be done now, the hardiest kinds being pruned first, and such as are more tender, at the latter end of the month, when there will be little danger of their suffering from the frosts in the wounded part.

Transplant fruit trees to places where they are wanted; opening a large hole, settling the earth carefully about their roots, and nailing them at once to the wall, or fastening them up to strong stakes. Nail up the tender trees with care, and uncover the fig-trees by degrees which have been protected from frosts by mats. Sow the kernels of apples and pears, and the stones of plums for stocks, keep off birds that eat the buds of fruit-trees.

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## MARCH.

### *Pleasure Garden.*

Watch the beds of tender flowers; and throw mats over them, supported by hoops in hard weather.

Continue transplanting all the hardy perennial fibrous rooted flowers, sweet williams, golden rods, and the like.

Dig up the earth with a shovel about those which were planted in autumn, and clean the ground between them.

All the pots of flowering plants must now be dressed. Pick off dead leaves, remove the earth at the top, and put fresh in the place, then give them a gentle watering, and set them in their places for flowering. In doing this take care the roots are not wounded, and repeat the watering once in three days.

The third week in March is the time to sow sweet peas, poppies, catchflies, and all the hardy annual plants.

The last week is proper for transplanting evergreens; and for this purpose a showery day should be chosen. New hot-beds must be made to receive the seedlings of annual flowers raised in the former.

### *Kitchen Garden.*

Sow in the beds of the kitchen garden some carrots and also the large peas, rouncevals and grey.

In better ground sow cabbages, and savoys, also carrots and parsnips for a second crop, and towards the end of the month put in a large parcel of beans and peas.

Sow parsley and plant mint.



Sow cos and imperial lettuce; and transplant the finer kinds.

In the beginning of the month, sow Dutch parsley for the roots.

The last week take the advantage of time, or the dry days, and make asparagus beds.

Clear up the artichoke roots, slip off the weakest, and plant them out for a new crop, leaving four from each good root to bear; and from such as are weaker two.

Dig up a warm border, and sow some French beans, let them have a dry soil, and give them no water till they appear.

### *Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

The grafts which were cut off early and laid in the ground to be ready for use are now to be brought into service, those of the earliest kinds are to be used first, and the apple last of all.

This done, let the gardener look to the stocks that were inoculated last year, and take off their heads. A hand's breadth should be left on the above place; this holds the bud secure by tying to it, and the sap rises more freely for its nourishment.

The fruit trees that were planted last October must be headed, and they should be cut down to almost four eyes. Some leave only three, but four is much better, the sap rises more freely.

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## APRIL.

### *Pleasure Garden.*

Tie up some stalks of tall flowers to sticks, cut these two feet long, thrust them eight inches into the ground, and let them be hid among the leaves.

Clean and rake the ground between them.

Take off the slips of auriculas and plant them out carefully for an increase. Transplant perennial flowers and evergreens as in the former months; and take up the roots of colchicams, and other autumnal bulbous plants.

Sow French honey-suckles, wall-flowers, and other hardy plants upon the natural ground, and the tenderer kinds on hot-beds. Transplant those sown last month, into the second hot-bed. Plant some tuberose in a moderate hot-bed, and sow carnations and pinks on the natural ground on open borders.

### *Kitchen Garden.*

Plant a large crop of French beans ; and chuse for them a warm border. Plant cuttings of sage, and other aromatic plants, sow marrowfat peas, and plant some beans for a late crop.

Sow thyme, sweet-marjoram and savory.

Prepare dung for making ridges to receive the cucumber or melon plants designed for bell or hand glasses.

Sow young sallad once in ten days : and sow some cos and Silesia lettuces.

The seeds of all kinds being in the ground, look to the growing crops, clear away the weeds every where among them, and dig up the earth between the rows of beans, peas, and all other kinds that are planted at distances. This gives them a strong growth, and brings them much sooner to perfection than can be done by any other method.

Draw up the mould to the stalks of the cabbages and cauliflower plants ; and in cold nights cover the glasses over the early cucumbers and melons.

### *Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

Look to the fruit trees against the walls and espaliers ; take off all foreright shoots, and train such as rise kindly.

Thin apricots upon the trees, for there are usually many more than can ripen ; and the sooner this is done the better the others succeed.

Water new-planted trees.

Plant cuttings of vines, and look over the grown one ; nip off improper shoots : when two rise from the same eye, always take off the weakest.

Weed strawberry beds ; cut off the strings ; stir the earth between them ; and once in three days water them.

Dig up the earth in the borders near the fruit-trees ; never plant any large kind of flowers or kitchen things upon



them : and it is better if nothing be sown or planted on these borders ; they all starve the fruit.

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## MAY.

### *Pleasure Garden.*

Observe, when the leaves of sow-breads are decayed take up the roots, laying them carefully by till the time of planting.

Take up the hyacinth-roots which have done flowering, and lay them sideways in a bed of dry rich mould, leaving the stems and leaves to die away ; this practice greatly strengthens the roots.

Roll the gravel walks carefully and frequently, and keep the grass clean mowed.

Clean all the borders from weeds ; take off all straggling branches from the large flowering plants, and train them up in a handsome shape.

Plant out French and African marigolds, with other autumnals, from the hot beds, the last week of this month, chusing a cloudy warm day.

Tie up the stalks of carnations. Plant cuttings of the lychinis and lychinideas, and sow the small annuals, candy tuft, and Venus' looking-glass in the open ground.

Put the tender annuals, as balsams, amaranths, and the like, and set them in a hot bed frame till summer is more advanced for planting them in the open ground.

### *Kitchen Garden.*

Water once in two days the peas, beans, and other large growing plants.

Destroy the weeds in all parts of the ground, and dig up the earth between the rows, and about the stems of all large kinds.

Sow small sallading once in ten days, as in the former month : And at the same time chuse a warm border, and some purslain ; sow also endive and plant beans and peas for a very late crop, and French beans to succeed the



others. The great care in these kinds is to have the several products fresh and young throughout the season.

Chuse a moist day, and an hour before sun-set plant out some savoys, cabbages, and red cabbages, draw the earth carefully up to their stems, and give them a few careful waterings.

### *Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

If any fresh shoots have sprouted upon the fruit-trees in espaliers, or against walls, nip them off, and train the proper ones to the wall or poles, at due distances, and in a regular manner.

Look over vines, and stop every shoot that has fruit upon it, to three eyes beyond the fruit. Then train the branches regularly to the wall, and let such as are designed for next year's fruiting grow some time longer, their leaves will give a proper shade to the fruit.

Water the new-planted trees, and keep the borders about the old ones clear; and finally pick off snails and other vermin.

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## JUNE.

### *Pleasure Garden.*

Chuse the evening of a mild showery day, and plant out into the open ground the tender annuals hitherto kept in pots in the hot-bed frame; they must be carefully loosened from the sides of the pot, and shaken out with all the mould about them: a large hole must be opened for each; they must be placed upright in it, and when settled in the ground, by a gentle watering, must be tied up to sticks.

Let pinks, carnations, and sweet-williams, be laid this month for an increase. Let the layers be covered lightly, and watered every day a little at a time.

The spring-flowers being now over, and their leaves faded, the roots must be taken up and laid by for planting again at a proper season. Snow-drops, winter-aconite, and the like, are to be thus managed.

The hyacinth-roots laid flat in the ground, must now be taken up, and the dead leaves nipped off, and the mould; and when clean, they must be laid upon a mat in an airy room to harden, and then laid by.

Tulip roots must now be taken up also as the leaves decay: and the like method must be followed with anemonies and ranunculuses.

Cut the cups or pods of the carnations that are near blowing, in three or four places, that they may blow regularly.

Inoculate some of the fine kind of roses.

### *Kitchen Garden.*

Transplant the cauliflower plants sown in May; give them a rich bed and frequent waterings.

Plant out thyme, and other savoury plants sown before, and in the same manner shade and water them.

Take the advantage of some cloudy weather to sow turnips; and if there be no showers, water the ground once in two days.

Sow broccoli upon a rich warm border, and plant out celery for blanching. This must be planted in trenches a foot and a half deep, and the plants must be set half a foot, asunder in the rows.

Endive should also be planted out for blanching; but in this the plants should be set 15 inches asunder, and at the same time some endive-seed must be sown for a second crop. Pick up snails; and in the damp evenings kill the naked slugs.

### *Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

Repeat the taking off of foreright shoots upon wall and espalier trees, which we directed last month. Train proper branches to their situations, where they are wanted; once again thin the wall fruit; leave nectarines at four inches distance; and the peaches at five, none nearer, the fruit will be finer, and the tree stronger for next year.

Inoculate the apricots, and chuse for this operation a cloudy evening. Water new planted trees, and pick up snails and vermin.



## JULY.

*Pleasure Garden.*

Roll the gravel frequently, and mow the grass.

Clip box edgings, cut and trim hedges, and look over all the borders, clearing them from weeds, and stirring up the mould between the plants.

Inoculate roses and jessamines of all kinds that require this propagation, and any of the other flowering shrubs.

Take up the roots of fritillaries and maragons, and others of this sort that are past flowering some time.

Gather the seeds of flowers you design to propagate, and lay them upon a shelf in an airy room in the pods. When they are well hardened, tie them up in paper bags, and do not take them out of the pods till they are to be used.

Lay pinks and sweet-williams as the former, in earth.

Cut down the stalks of those plants which have done flowering, and which you do not keep for seed; and tie up those now coming into flower to sticks, as we directed for the earlier kinds.

Sow lupines, larkspurs, and the like, on dry warm borders, to stand the winter, and flower early next year.

*Kitchen Garden.*

Sow a crop of French beans to come in late, when they will be very acceptable.

Clear all the ground from weeds.

Dig between the rows of beans and peas, mow the ground also about the artichokes among the cabbage kind.

Water the crops in dry weather.

Spinage-seed will be ready for gathering now, as also that of the Welch onion, and some others, take them carefully off, and dry them in the shade.

Take up large onions, and spread them upon mats, to dry for the winter.

Clear away the stalk of beans and peas that have done bearing.

Watch the melons as they ripen, and give them very little water. Water cucumbers more freely.



*Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

At this season the most diligent attention is still necessary in the operation of summer pruning, nailing wall and espalier trees, and regulating the numerous shoots of the year, which in the latter case will now be grown into a confused disorder.

Thin wall fruit; and shade currants with mats, in the full sun, to continue the fruit longer in perfection.

Clear raspberries from straggling suckers between the rows, to admit the sun and air to the fruit now ripening.

Gather walnuts for pickling, before the internal parts begin to shell or harden.

Take off all foreright shoots in the espalier and wall fruit trees. Inoculate peaches and nectarines.

Hang phials of honey and water upon the fruit trees, and look carefully for snails. Keep the borders where the fruit trees stand clear from weeds, and stir the earth about them. This will greatly assist the fruit in ripening.

Look to the fruit trees that have been grafted and budded the last season. See that there are no shoots from the stocks. Whenever they rise take them off, for they will rob the intended growth of its nourishment.

Look carefully to the new planted trees; water them often; and whatever shoots they properly make, fasten to the wall or espalier.

Repeat the care of the vines, take off improper shoots, and nail any that are loose to the wall. Let no weeds rise in the ground about them, for they will exhaust the nourishment, and impoverish the fruit.

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AUGUST.

*Pleasure Garden.*

Continue to keep all parts of the pleasure ground, &c. in neat order, by hoeing, raking, and cleaning the borders, beds, and shrubberies; clipping edgings and hedges; rolling gravel, mowing grass, &c.

Sow auriculas, polyanthuses, anemones, ranunculuses, seeds of bulbous roots, &c. all in large pots, either to move to shade in summer, or shelter in winter; or may all be sown in a bed or border. Also mignonette in pots for late flowering, and some to winter in frames; and Ten-week-stocks to pot for winter.

See whether the layers of sweet-williams, carnations, and the like be rooted; transplant such as are, and give frequent gentle waterings to the others to promote it.

Dig up a mellow border, and draw lines at five inches distance lengthways and across, in the centre of these squares plant the seedling polyanthuses, one in each square.

In the same manner plant out the seedling auriculas. Shade them till they have taken root, and water them once in 24 hours.

Cut down the stalks of plants that have done flowering. Save the seeds you want as they ripen.

Dig up a border for early tulip roots, and others for hyacinths, anemones, and ranunculuses. Sow annuals to stand through the winter, and shift auriculas into fresh pots.

In dry weather, water the tender annuals every evening, plants in pots, and any articles lately sown and planted.

### *Kitchen Garden.*

Get the ground ready for the reception of such principal crops as are requisite to be put in at this season.

Sow some spinage upon a rich border, and on such another sow onions. These two crops will live through the winter, unless very severe, and be valuable in the spring.

The second week in August sow cabbage seed of the early kinds; and the week after that sow cauliflower seed. This will afford the plants that are to be nursed up under bell-glasses in the winter an opportunity of being strong for early and main summer crops. Some of these may also be ventured in a very well defended situation open. The last week of this month sow another crop to supply the place of these in case of accidents; for if the season be very severe, they may be lost; and if very mild, they will run to seed in spring. These last crops must be defended by a hot-bed frame, and they will stand out and supply deficiencies.



Sow lettuces, the cabbage and brown Dutch kinds, in a warm and well-sheltered piece of ground. Also some peas, kidney-beans, and radishes, for the present autumn.

Plant celery into trenches, for a successional winter crop; and beans for Michaelmas.

Transplant some of the lettuces, sown earlier, in warm and well-sheltered borders.

Take up garlick, and spread it on a mat to harden; in the same manner take up onions and rocambole; and at the latter end of the month, shalots.

### *Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

At this season many sorts of fruit will be ripening; and those upon wall-trees and espaliers should have all possible assistance, by continuing the trees trained close and regular, to admit the beneficial effects of the free air and benign influence of the sun, that the fruit may attain its peculiar perfection in growth, ripeness, and flavour.

Watch the fruit on your wall trees, and keep off devourers, of which there are numberless kinds now swarming about them. Shoot all birds, pick up snails, and hang bottles of sweet water for flies and wasps.

Fasten loose branches, and gather the fruit carefully as it ripens.

Once more go round the vines, and pull off those trailing branches so very luxuriantly produced at this time. See that the fruit is not shaded by loose branches, and keep the borders clear of weeds. This tends more than is imagined to the well-ripening of the fruit.

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## SEPTEMBER.

### *Pleasure Garden.*

A new kind of work begins this month; which is preparing for the next season. Tear up the annuals that have done flowering, and cut down such perennials as are past their beauty; bring in other perennials from the nursery beds, and plant them with care at regular distances.



Take up the box edgings where they have outgrown their proper size, and part and plant them afresh.

Plant tulip and other flower roots.

Slip polyanthuses, and place them in rich shady borders. Sow the seeds of flower-de-luces and crown imperial, as also of auriculas and polyanthuses, according to the method we delivered before.

Also part off the roots of flower-de-luces, piony, and others of this kind. In the last week transplant hardy flowering shrubs, and they will be strong next summer.

Digging may be forwarded in vacant beds and borders for bulbous roots, and other perennial and biennial flowering plants, to be planted this and next month.

Give water in dry weather to annual flowers in pots ; and save seeds of all sorts according as they ripen.

### *Kitchen Garden.*

Prepare the ground in proper time, by dunging and digging, for succeeding crops.

Sow spinage, onions, radishes, turnips, turnip-radish, cabbages, coleworts, and borage ; and successions of small sallading upon warm and well-sheltered borders.

Sow lettuces of various kinds, Silesia, cos, and Dutch, and when they come up shelter them carefully. The common practice is to shelter them under hand-glasses. But they will thrive better under a sloping reed hedge, and such as we described before.

Plant celery, endive, coleworts, cabbages, savoys, brocoli, borecole, lettuce, leeks, strawberries, and the several sorts of perennial aromatic and pot-herbs.

Make up fresh warm beds with the dung that has lain a month in the heap. Plant the spawn in these beds, upon pasture mould, the same they were found in, and raise the top of the bed to a ridge, to throw off wet.

Transplant sage, lavender, and sweet plants. Earth up celery as it grows up in height.

Clean asparagus beds in this manner: cut down the stalks, and pare the earth off the surface of the alleys, throw this upon the beds half an inch thick, and sprinkle over it a little dung from an old melon bed.

Look to the turnip beds and thin them, leave the turnips at six inches distance.

Weed the spinage, onions, and other new-sown plants.

Dig up the ground where summer crops have ripened, and lay it in ridges for the winter. These should be disposed east and west, and turned once in two months, they have thus the advantage of a fallow.

Plant some beans, and sow some peas on warm and well-sheltered borders, to stand out the winter.

### *Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

Give still proper attention to wall-trees and espaliers in general, it being a particular merit to continue them always well trained, appearing regular and agreeable to the sight, and greatly beneficial to the trees and fruit.

The fruit must now be gathered with care every day, and the best time is an hour after sun rise. Then it should be laid in a cool place till used. Such as is gathered in the middle of the day is always flabby.

Keep birds from the grapes, for as they now begin to ripen, they will be in continual danger.

Transplant gooseberries and currants, and plant strawberries and raspberries: they will be rooted before winter, and flourish the succeeding season.

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## OCTOBER.

### *Pleasure Garden.*

In this month the garden should be prepared in the best order, to remain clean and neat for the winter season; and in which may commence general autumn planting.

Plant wall-flowers out in borders; and double bloody kinds in pots, to have shelter in winter. Also, suckers from the roots of roses, lilacs, and other shrubs and trees.

Let all the bulbous roots for spring flowering be put into the ground. Narcissus, maragon, tulips, and such ranunculuses and anemones as were not planted sooner.



Transplant columbines, monk's-hood, and all kinds of fibrous rooted perennials.

Place the auriculas and carnations, that are in pots, under shelter.

Some lay the pots on one side, but that spoils the bud for next year's flowering. The best way is by means of a sloping reed hedge. Dig up a dry border, and if not dry enough naturally, dig in some sand. In this set the pot up to the brim. Place the reed hedge sloping behind them, and fasten a mat to its top that may be let down in bad weather.

Take off the dead leaves of the auriculas before they are thus planted.

Bring into the garden flowering shrubs wherever they are wanted, and at the end of the month prune some of the hardier kind.

### *Kitchen Garden.*

In this month all sowing and principal planting should be finished for the year.

Plant out the cauliflower plants where they are to be sheltered; and it will be proper to plant two for each glass, where that method is used, for fear of one failing.

Sow another crop of peas, and plant more beans; choose for these a dry spot well sheltered from the cold winds of winter.

Sow a small crop of lettuce, some radishes, and successions of small sallading.

Plant cabbages, cauliflowers, coleworts, celery, endive, lettuce, and late broccoli and borecole; also garlick and shalots, several sorts of pot herbs, some plants for seed, and a few early beans for next summer.

Transplant the lettuces sown last month, where they can be defended by the reed hedge, or under walls.

Transplant cabbage plants and coleworts where they are to remain.

Take great care of the cauliflower plants sown early in summer; they now begin to show their heads, so break in the leaves upon them to keep off the sun and rain, it will both harden and whiten them.



*Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

Planting and winter pruning may be commenced this month in several sorts of fruit trees.

Cuttings and suckers of gooseberries and currants may now be planted.

Prime the peach and nectarine trees and the vines. This is a very useful practice, for it strengthens the buds for spring.

Cut grapes for preserving, with a joint of the vine to each bunch.

Gather fruits for winter keeping as they ripen. Transplant all garden trees for flowering; prune currant-bushes, and preserve the stones of the fruit for sowing.

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NOVEMEER.

*Pleasure Garden.*

Planting may be performed in all sorts of bulbous and tuberous flower roots, fibrous-rooted perennials and biennials, and most sorts of shrubs and trees.

Throw together a good heap of pasture mould, with the turf among it, to rot for the borders.

Transplant honey-suckles and spireas, with other hardy flowering shrubs.

Rake over the beds of seedling flowers, and strew some peas straw over them to keep out the frost.

Cut down the stems of perennials which have done flowering; pull up annuals that are spent, and rake and clear the ground.

Place hoops over the beds of ranunculuses, and anemones, and lay mats or cloths in readiness to draw over them, in case of hard rains or frost.

Clean up the borders in all parts of the garden, and take care not only to destroy the weeds, but all kinds of moss.

Look over the seeds of those flowers which were gathered in summer. See they keep dry and sweet, and in a condition of growth, and dig a border or two for the hardier kinds.

*Kitchen Garden.*

The business of sowing and planting is inconsiderable at this season ; but is necessary in a few articles, both in the open ground and in hot-beds.

Weed the crops of spinage, and such other kinds as were sown late, for the wild growth will else smother and starve the crop.

Dig up a border under a warm wall, and sow some carrots for spring ; sow radishes in such another place, and see the ground be well and deep dug for both. Turn the mould that was trenched and laid up for fallowing ; this destroys weeds, and prepares the soil to be enriched by the air.

Prepare some hot-beds for sallading ; cover them five inches with mould, and sow upon them some lettuces, and the common small sallading, mustard, rape, cresses, and radish.

Plant another crop of beans ; and sow more peas for a succession.

Trench the ground between the artichokes, and throw a thick ridge of earth over the roots. This will preserve them from the frost, and prevent their shooting at an improper time.

Make a hot-bed for forced asparagus.

Take up carrots and parsnips, and lay them in sand to be ready for use. Give air at times to the plants under hand glasses and in hot-beds, or they will suffer as much by want of that, as they would have done by the frost.

*Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

Take up all trees planted for standards, or the winds will rock them at the bottom, and the frost will be let in and destroy them.

Throw a good quantity of peas-straw about them, and lay on it a good quantity of brick-bats, or pebbles, to keep it fast ; this will mellow the ground, and keep out the frost.

Continue to prune wall-fruit trees, and prune at this time also the apple and pear kinds. Pull off the late fruit of figs, as it would decay and rot the branches.



## DECEMBER.

*Pleasure Garden.*

The business now consists in finishing all intended winter planting, if mild weather, and in forwarding any requisite pruning in trees and shrubs; also to keep the principal compartments of walks, borders, and lawns, decently clean; and in severe frost, to give occasional protection to tender or curious plants.

Draw the mats and cloths over the ranunculuses, and anemone beds in severe weather, whether frost or cold rain; give them air in the middle of every tolerable day; but draw on the mats against night.

Throw up the earth where flowering shrubs are to be planted in spring; and once in a fortnight turn it.

Dig up the borders that are to have flower-roots planted in them in the spring, and give them the advantage of a fallow, by throwing up the ground in a ridge.

Scatter over it a very little rotten dung from a melon bed, after this turn it twice during the winter.

Look over the flowering shrubs and prune them, cut away all the dead wood, shorten luxuriant branches, and if any cross each other, take away one. Leave them so that the air can have free passage between them.

Sift a quarter of an inch of good fresh mould over the roots of perennial flowers whose stalks have been cut down and then rake over the borders. This will give the whole an air of culture and good management, which is always pleasing.

*Kitchen Garden.*

Some sowing and planting will be required; forward the business of manuring, digging, or trenching vacant ground, laying it in ridges; prepare hot dung and make hot-beds where early crops are in request; earth and tie up particular plants to blanch, and protect tender plants from frost.

Plant cabbages and savoys for seed. This is to be done with great care: dig up a dry border and break the mould very well; then take up some of the stoutest cabbage and



savoy plants; hang them up by the stalks five days, and then plant them half way of the stalks into the ground; draw up a good quantity of the mould about the part of the stalk that is out of the ground, and make it into a kind of hill round each, then leave them to nature.

Sow another crop of peas, and plant another parcel of beans to take their chance for succeeding the other.

Make another hot-bed for asparagus, to yield a supply when the former is exhausted. Continue to earth up celery, and cover some endive with a good quantity of peas-straw, as it is growing, that you may take up when wanted, which otherwise the frost will prevent.

### *Orchard and Fruit Garden.*

Prepare for planting trees where they will be wanted in spring, by digging the ground deep, and turning it well now in the places where they are to stand.

Scatter over the borders, where the fruit-trees are planted, some fresh mould and some old dung, and in a mild day dig it in with a strong three pronged fork.

Look over the orchard trees, and cut away the superfluous and dead wood. Let the branches stand clear of one another that the air may get between, and the fruit will be better flavoured.

This is the management of old trees, and new-planted ones are to be preserved by covering the ground at their roots.

A  
COLLECTION  
OF  
**USEFUL RECEIPTS,**  
 &c. &c.

---

*For destroying Caterpillars on Gooseberry Bushes.*

TAKE one Scots pint (two English quarts) of tobacco liquor, (which may be made, where it cannot be purchased, by infusing any kind of tobacco in water till all the strength be extracted) which the manufacturers of tobacco generally sell for destroying bugs, and mix them with about one ounce of allum; and when the allum is sufficiently dissolved, put this mixture into a plate or other vessel, wide and long enough to admit of a brush, like a weaver's brush, being dipped into it; and as early in the season as you can perceive the leaves of the bushes to be in the least eaten, or the eggs upon the leaves, (which generally happens about the end of May) and which will be found in great numbers on the veins of the leaves on their under side: you are then to take the preparation or liquor, and after dipping the brush into it, and holding the brush towards the under side of the bush, which is to be raised and supported by the hands of another person; and by drawing your hand gently over the hairs of your brush, the above liquid is sprinkled, and falls in small drops on the leaves; the consequence of which is, if the eggs are there, they never come forward; and if they have already generated worms, in a minute or two after the liquor touches them, they either die or sicken, so as to fall off the bush, at least,



they do so upon giving it a little shake. If, upon their thus falling off, they shall not appear completely dead, the bush should be held up, and either a little boiling water from a watering pot thrown over them, or a bruise given them by a spade or shovel, or the earth, where they lie, turned over with a hoe. This preparation does not in the least injure the bushes.

*Economical mode of cutting Cauliflower.*

Instead of cutting off the whole head of a cauliflower, leave a part on, of the size of a gooseberry, and all the leaves: second, and even third heads will be formed, and thus they may be eaten for two or three months; when at present, by cutting the head completely off, the beds of cauliflowers are gone in two or three weeks. They should be planted in good moist ground, and treated in the same manner as celery.

*To prune Wall Fruit.*

Cut off all fresh shoots, however fair they may appear to the eye, that will not, without much bending, be well placed to the wall; for if any branch happens to be twisted or bruised in the bending or turning, (which you may not easily perceive) although it may grow and prosper for the present, yet it will decay in time, and the sap or gum will issue from that place.

*New Method of raising Cucumbers.*

From the best seed that can be got of the common prickly cucumber, raise plants on a moderate hot-bed, not hurrying them too much in their growth. In May, when the danger of the frost is nearly over, familiarise the plants, by degrees, to the air, and towards the latter end of the month plant them in the open ground against a south wall. Take care not to give them too much water, as that will injure the fruit. When they have run up about five feet, they will send forth blossoms, and the fruit will begin to shew itself



soon after. The flesh of cucumbers raised in this manner will be thicker and firmer, and the flavour vastly more delicious, than those raised from the same seed, but planted in the ordinary way, and the runners suffered to trail on the ground. Though a south wall, in most gardens, is too much appropriated to other things, to give room for cucumbers in general, yet in every garden a few plants may be so trained by way of rarity, and to save seed, which is found to be greatly improved by this method, so as to produce much better cucumbers, in the common way of raising them. One or two plants so raised, will supply a sufficient quantity of seed for a large garden.

Laying a cucumber, or melon bed, with tiles, is also of particular service in improving the fruit, and giving it a proper flavour.

*To prevent the irregular growth of Melons.*

It is well known that melons frequently, in certain situations, lose their circular form, and grow larger on one side than the other, and that those mis-shapen fruits are always bad. To remedy this, take a small forked stick, in proportion to the size of the melon, and thrust it into the ground as nearly as possible to the tail of the fruit, taking the precaution to lay a little moss between the two prongs, and suspend the melon to this fork. In a few days the melon will resume its form, when the fork may be removed, and the operation is finished. The quality of the fruit remains unchanged.

*To propagate Herbs by slips and cuttings.*

Many kinds of pot herbs may, in July, be propagated by cuttings or slips, which may be planted out to nurse on a shady border for a few weeks, or till they have struck root, and may then be planted out where they are to remain. If made about the middle or the end of the month, they will be ready for transplanting before the end of August, and in that case will be well established before the winter.

The kinds are, marjoram, mint, sage, savory, sorrel, tansy, tarragons, and thyme.

*Easy Method of discovering whether or not Seeds are sufficiently Ripe.*

Seeds, when not sufficiently ripe, will swim, but when arrived at full maturity, they will be found uniformly to fall to the bottom ; a fact that is said to hold equally true of all seeds, from the cocoa nut to the orchis.

*To remove Herbs and Flowers in Summer.*

If you have occasion to transplant in the summer season, let it be in the evening after the heat is past, plant and water the same immediately, and there will be no danger from the heat next day ; but be careful in digging up the earth, you do not break any of the young shoots, as the sap will exude out of the same to the great danger of the plants.

*Directions for managing Strawberries in Summer.*

On the management of strawberries in June and July, the future prosperity of them greatly depends ; and if each plant has not been kept separate, by cutting off the runners, they will be in a state of confusion, and you will find three different sorts of plants.

1. Old plants whose roots are turned black, hard, and woody.
2. Young plants, not strong enough to flower.
3. Flowering plants, which ought only to be there, and perhaps not many of them.

Before the time of flowering is quite over, examine them, and pull up every old plant which has not flowered ; for, if once they have omitted to flower : you may depend upon it they will never produce any after, being too old and past bearing : but to be fully convinced, leave two or three, set a stick to them, and observe them next year.

If the young plants, runners of the last year, be too thick, take some of them away, and do not leave them nearer than a foot of the scarlet, alpinas, and wood, and fifteen or sixteen inches of all the larger sorts, and in the first rainy



weather in July or August, take them all up and make a fresh plantation with them, and they will be very strong plants for flowering next year.

Old beds, even if the plants be kept single at their proper distance, examine, and pull all the old plants which have not flowered.

When the fruit is nearly all gathered, examine them again, and cut off the runners, but if you want to make a fresh plantation, cut off all the rest. Then stir up the ground with a trowel or three pronged fork, and in August they will be fit to transplant.

If you have omitted in July do not fail in August, that the runners may make good roots to be transplanted in September, for, if later, the worms will draw them out of the ground, and the frost afterwards will prevent them from striking root; the consequence of which is, their not flowering the next spring, and you will lose a year.

### *How to cut Box Edgings.*

Box edgings should be cut about the beginning of April, or in the end of July. They should, however, be cut once a year, and should be kept two inches in breadth at the bottom; being tapered up to a thin edge at top; for nothing looks so ill as a large bushy edging, especially to a narrow walk. The use of edging is to separate the earth from the gravel, and the larger they are allowed to grow the less effectual they become; getting the more open below as they advance in height. Such also harbour snails, and other troublesome vermin.

### *Valuable instructions for raising Potatoes to a very great Advantage.*

The earth should be dug twelve inches deep, if the soil will allow it; after this a hole should be opened about six inches deep, and horse dung, or long litter, should be put therein, about three inches thick; this hole should not be more than twelve inches diameter. Upon this dung or litter, a potatoe should be planted whole, upon which a little

more dung should be shaken, and then the earth must be put thereon. In like manner the whole plot of ground must be planted, taking care that the potatoes being at least sixteen inches apart.

When the young shoots make their appearance they should have fresh mould drawn round them with a hoe, and if the tender shoots are covered it will prevent the frost from injuring them; they should again be earthed when the shoots make a second appearance, but not covered, as, in all probability, the season will be less severe.

A plentiful supply of mould should be given them, and the person who performs this business should never tread upon the plant, or the hillock that is raised round it, as the lighter the earth is the more room the potatoe will have to expand.

A gentleman obtained from a single root, thus planted, very near forty pounds weight of large potatoes; and from almost every other root upon the same plot of ground, from fifteen to twenty pounds weight; and, except the soil be stony or gravelly, ten pounds or half a peck, of potatoes, may almost be obtained from each root, by pursuing the foregoing method.

But note.—Cuttings, or small sets, will not do for this purpose.

*The advantage in sowing Peas in circles instead of straight rows.*

It is a great error in those persons who sow the rows of tall peas close together. It is much better in all those sorts, which grow six or eight feet high, to have only one row, and then to leave a bed ten or twelve feet wide for onions, carrots, or any crops which do not grow tall.

The advantages which will be derived are, that the peas will not be drawn up so much, be stronger, will flower much nearer the ground, and in wet weather can be more easily gathered without wetting you.

But instead of sowing peas in straight rows, if you will form the ground into circles of three feet diameter with a space of two feet between each circle, in a row thirty feet long, you will have six circles of peas, each nine feet: in all



fifty-four feet of peas instead of thirty, on the same extent of ground.

If you want more than one row of circles, leave a bed of ten or twelve feet before you begin another.

For the very tall sorts, four feet circles will afford more room for the roots to grow in, and care must be taken, by applying some tender twigs or strings, to prevent the circles from joining each other.

This method is equally applicable for scarlet beans.

### *To raise Mazagan Beans early in Summer.*

Plant Mazagan Beans in October, on a south border, close to the wall, three inches asunder, in two or three rows. In frosty weather cover them with long litter. Transplant them at spring, leaving the largest at five or six inches distance.

### *To obtain a good crop of Onions.*

In order to obtain a good crop of onions, it is proper to sow at different seasons, viz. in light soils in August, January, or early in February; and in heavy wet soils, in March, or early in April; onions, however, should not be sown in January, unless the ground be in a dry state, which is not often the case at so early a period of the season; but if so, advantage should be taken of it.

### *To plant and make Edgings.*

Edgings of daisies, thrifts, violets, gentianella, &c. should be planted in February; but those of box succeed better, if planted in April or August.

New edgings should be planted rather closely, that they may have an immediate effect; and, in repairing old ones, plant very close, that the whole may appear the more uniform. Some plant these, in either case, with the dibble, but it is better to do this with the spade cut out by the line, a drill or furrow, perpendicular, on the side of the border, and to a depth suitable to the size of the roots to be laid;

placing them against the perpendicular side, and spreading out their fibres sideways ; exposing them to the air as short a time as possible.

*When to plant annual and perennial Flowers.*

Many kinds of annuals and perennials sown in March, and the beginning of April, will be fit for transplanting about the end of May, and may either be planted in patches about borders, or in beds as fancy shall direct. Of these, the kinds improved by transplanting are, amaranthuses, China asters, columbines, French and African marigolds, fox-cloves, holly hocks, India pinks, love-lies-a-bleeding, mallows, mignonette, prince's feathers, scabious, stocks, sun-flowers, sweet-williams, wall-flowers, and others. They should be planted out in a showery time, if possible, or otherwise be frequently watered, till they have struck root.

*To cure the disease in Apple Trees.*

Brush off the white down, clear off the red stain underneath it, and anoint the places infected with a liquid mixture of train oil and Scotch snuff.

*To prune Vines to advantage.*

In pruning vines, leave some new branches every year, and take away, if too many, some of the old, which will be of great advantage to the tree, and much increase the quantity of fruit.

When you trim your vine, leave two knots, and cut them off the next time ; for, usually, the two buds yield a bunch of grapes. Vines thus pruned, have been known to bear abundantly, whereas, others that have been cut close, to please the eye, have been almost barren of fruit.

*To cure the Canker in Trees.*

Cut them off to the quick, and apply a piece of sound bark from any other tree, and bind it on with a flannel roller. Cut off the canker, and a new shoot will grow strong.



*To preserve Strawberry Plants from the heat of the Sun, &c.*

Sir Joseph Banks, from a variety of experiments, and the experience of many years, recommends a general revival of the now almost obsolete practice of laying straw under strawberry plants, when the fruit begins to swell ; by which means the roots are shaded from the sun, the waste of moisture by evaporation prevented, and the leaning fruit kept from damage, by resting on the ground, particularly in wet weather ; and much labour in watering is saved. Twenty trusses of long straw are sufficient for 1800 feet of plants.

*To cultivate Rhubarb.*

It is not enough to give it depth of good soil, but it must be watered in drought ; and in winter must be well covered with straw or dung. If this is attended to, your rhubarb will be solid when taken out of the ground, and your kitchen, if a warm one, when cut into large pieces, will soon fit it for use.

*Method of preventing the premature decay of Fruit Trees.*

The decay of peach trees is owing to a worm which originates from a large fly, that resembles the common wasp. This fly perforates the bark, and deposits an egg in the moist or sappy part of it. The most common place of the perforation is at the surface of the earth, and, as soon as the worm is able to move, it descends into the earth, probably from an instinctive effort, to avoid the winter's frost.

This may be ascertained by observation ; the tract of the worm, from the sect of the egg, being visible at its beginning, and gradually increasing in correspondence with the increasing size of the worm ; its course is always downwards. The progress of the young worm is extremely slow ; and if the egg is deposited at any considerable distance from the surface of the earth, it is long before the worm reaches the ground. The worms are unable to bear the cold of winter, unless covered by the earth, and all that are above ground after frost, are killed.

By this history of the origin, progress, and nature of the insect, we can better explain the method of cure, which is as follows: In the spring, when the blossoms are out, clear away the dirt, so as to expose the root of the tree to the depth of three inches; surround the root with straw about three feet long, applied lengthways, so that it may have a covering one inch thick, which extends to the bottom of the hole, the butt-ends of the straw resting upon the ground at the bottom. Bind this straw round the tree with three bands, one near the top, one at the middle, and the third at the surface of the earth; then fill up the hole at the root with earth, and press it closely round the straw. When the white frosts appear, the straw should remain uncovered until the blossoms put out in the spring.

By this process the fly is prevented from depositing its egg within three feet of the root; and although it may place the egg above that distance, the worm travels so slow that it cannot reach the ground before frost, and therefore is killed before it is able to injure the tree.

The truth of the principle is proved by the following fact, which was practiced on a large number of peach trees, and they flourished remarkably, without any appearance of injury from the worm, for several years. The straw was then discontinued from about twenty of them. When all those which were without the straw declined, while the others, which had the straw, continued as vigorous as ever.



## METHOD OF PLANTING AN ORCHARD.

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LET a piece of ground be marked out, of extent and figure at the owner's discretion, observing that it lies dry, and if inclined to the south or west a little, so much the better ; if on a level, or inclined to the north or east, there should be three or four rows of Scotch Fir, or some other hardy trees, planted pretty thick, to break off the north and east wind, which often prevails in spring. Let the piece be well fenced round, so as to prevent even hares and rabbits from entering, for they are very destructive to young orchards. Let the ground be well trenched over, from  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 feet deep, putting all top sod or soil to the bottom, at the same time mixing a good quantity of well-rotted fold yard dung in the trench, and gathering all large stones, roots, and rubbish out as you proceed. The whole piece being thus prepared, proceed to plant. Let the trees be of free growth with good roots. If it be a very exposed situation, trees of four feet stem, or half standards will suit best ; but if tolerably sheltered, full standards, six feet stem, are preferable. Let the trees be planted in rows at eight yards distance, and six yards distance in the row.—The planting finished, put a little long litter round the root of every tree ; it will preserve them from frost in winter, and drought in summer. Young trees, like young animals, require most nourishment and care in their infancy and youth ; therefore in order to encourage a young orchard, let the ground be kept in a state of cultivation for ten, twelve, or fourteen

years ; this will keep the ground open, and greatly promote the growth of young trees. By this means also, the ground may be kept clear of weeds, which should be particularly attended to, as they are great impoverishers. Useful crops of vegetables may be obtained in the intervals between the rows, observing never to plant any thing nearer than five or six feet from the trees, and let the ground be annually enriched with a good quantity of manure, that the early and vigorous growth of trees may be well supported. With the above treatment for twelve or fourteen years, they will be so well established as to require very little care in future. And as the roots and tops of trees will now occupy most of the ground, it may be sown down with grass seeds, and henceforth used as an early paddock for calves, lambs, &c. The orchard will now begin to make such returns of fruit, as abundantly to compensate the owner for all his expence and trouble in past years.



## DESCRIPTION AND CURE OF THE CURL IN POTATOES,

*In a Letter to a provincial Agricultural Society.*

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GENTLEMEN,

THE premium offered by your board, for the best description and cure for the Curl in Potatoes, is another proof of its truly philanthropic principles, and unremitted exertions for the improvement of the country and relief of the poor. The *potatoe* when cultivated to perfection, being so well calculated to supply a deficiency of bread, and to prevent a general scarcity of provisions in the land, and seeing that this most valuable plant is infected with disease, which in several instances has blasted the hopes of the husbandman, and rendered well cultivated fields unfruitful: it well becomes every benevolent mind to enquire after, and strive to cure so common a plague; having been in the practice of Horticulture and Gardening for some years, I have necessarily been led to observe the progress of vegetation and diseases of plants, and being impressed with a sense of duty to my country, I beg leave to offer through your patronage, a few observations on the Curl in Potatoes. Experiments have been repeatedly tried to cure the curled top in its growth, but have hitherto proved ineffectual, and I believe must continue to be so, for I hope to make it appear the disease is inherent in the *potatoe*, and not a casual blight in the top, from any external cause, and this disease can only be cured, or rather prevented, by a peculiar method of cultivation. The *potatoe* being originally an exotic (but now naturalized), we know but little of it in its uncultivated state, many think it was first imported from North America; however, it was not known in the English gardens till the beginning of the seventeenth century, and was not cultivated in the fields till the former part of the eighteenth, and about the middle of the year 1750, the cultivation of *potatoes* became a common branch of husbandry, and finding the *potatoe* crop to be most abundant on the richest soils, the

best ground was generally taken for that purpose, and more manure was used for potatoes than for any other crop; this, I believe, had a direct tendency to bring on the curled disease, for the potatoe being of a succulent nature, by over rich cultivation, its juices became too gross and crude for its natural powers of vegetation, which effect became fatally evident in the shrivelled and curled foliage. The above I presume will appear more clearly to be the cause of the disease, when it is known that the curl did not appear till the potatoes had been cultivated as above for some years. It was first observed in the year 1764, and as none had any idea of keeping it in a state of nature and health, by impoverishing its vegetable juices, the disease continued to increase till 1772, when it became quite alarming: since then much has been wrote and said on the subject, but nothing has been found to effect the immediate cure, yet I think the disease has been greatly reduced of late years, by a practice which has partially prevailed of getting sets from a poor soil, and of changing them every year; the good effect of which I have for some years been witness of, both in general observation and practical experience, and I believe if it were strictly and judiciously attended too by all potatoe growers, in a few years the curl would totally disappear.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Most respectfully yours, &c.

A PHILANTHROPHIST.

FINIS.





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